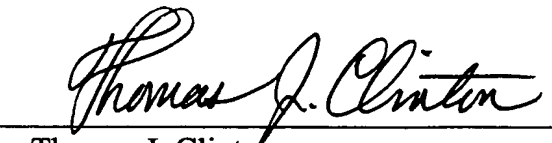
5,316,714 to Yoneda et al. ("Yoneda"). The Examiner asserts that Enomoto teaches modifying the dispersing medium and surface modifying the sol particles for the purpose of compatibility, and that compatibility in this context is synonymous with improving stability. The Examiner asserts that Yoneda is directed to forming suspensions having excellent dispersion stability. However, the object of the present invention, as recited in amended claim 1 and new claim 2, is to provide an organic compound sol modified by an inorganic compound which has an excellent dispersion stability in the presence of certain destabilizing species. In the present invention, if an organic or inorganic acid, an organic or inorganic base, a salt or a surfactant thereof is present in the inorganic compound sol, the $SiO_2$ composite particles would not aggregate with each other and gelation would not occur. In the case in which the dispersion does not contain an ionic component such as an organic acid, any combination of the coupling agent and the solvent may be used. In contrast, if the dispersion does not contain an ionic component such as an organic acid, only a limited combination of a specific silicone-coupling agent having a specific polarizability and dispersion media having a specific dielectric constant can be used. Otherwise, an inorganic compound sol having high dispersibility cannot be obtained. Producing a stable combination of the coupling agent and the solvent in the presence of ionic components, limited as it is to these specific criteria, is a surprising result. Given the prevalence of compounds producing, at least to some extent, charged species in dispersion, teachings of dispersion stability only in the absence of charged species do not address the general problem of dispersion stability. Enomoto and Yoneda fail to teach or suggest, alone or in combination, a formulation which is stable in the presence of ionic components or surfactants thereof or the theoretical basis whereby a stable formulation can be obtained. For these reasons, it is believed that the rejection of claim 1 for obviousness over Enomoto with respect to Yoneda has been overcome.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the rejection of claim 1 and allowance of claims 1 and 2 at an early date is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

WEBB ZIESENHEIM LOGSDON
ORKIN & HANSON, P.C.

By 

Thomas J. Clinton
Registration No. 40,561
Attorney for Applicants
700 Koppers Building
436 Seventh Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15219-1818
Telephone No. 412-471-8815
Facsimile No. 412-471-4094

MARKED-UP VERSION OF AMENDED CLAIM

1. (Four Times Amended) An inorganic compound sol comprising a dispersion medium having a dielectric constant of from 10 to 85 and, dispersed therein, inorganic compound particulates having average particle size from about 11 to about 30 nm whose surface has been modified by an organic compound which is selected from the class consisting of vinylsilane compounds, acrylsilane compounds, epoxysilane compounds, aminosilane compounds, γ-mercaptopropyltrimethoxysilane and γ-chloropropyltrimethoxysilane, exhibiting a molecular polarizability of from $2 \times 10^{-40}$ to $850 \times 10^{-40}$ $C^2m^2J^{-1}$, wherein the organic compound particulates are composite oxide particulates composed of silica and at least one inorganic oxide other than silica, with the weight ratio of silica to at least one inorganic oxide other than silica being 3 to 500, and wherein the inorganic compound sol is stable in the presence of species selected from the group consisting of ionic components, salts and surfactants.